



Covenant Baptist Church

Reformed and Refreshing

February 7th, 2021

Welcome to Covenant Baptist Church. We are a Reformed church committed to three things:

- **The Exaltation of God**

We desire that the people at Covenant truly understand who God is and His rightful place in their lives as their Lord and sovereign Savior.

- **The Edification of the Saints**

We consider it extremely important to correctly teach the Bible, verse by verse, so we can properly have the Holy Spirit apply it to our lives.

- **The Evangelization of the Sinner**

We understand that God has given us the responsibility to be stewards of the Gospel and that means sharing it exactly like God gave it to us with those who need Jesus.

<https://covenantbaptistsc.org>

Service Times:

Bible Education Hour (Puritans and Systematic Theology)
~ 9:30 A.M.

Sunday Worship ~ 10:30 A.M.

Wednesday Prayer Service ~ 6:00 P.M., 7:00 P.M.

*(We are not interested in traditional worship
or contemporary worship. We are only
interested in true worship.)*

Order of Worship

(February 7th, 2021)

Prelude

Call to Worship: Psalm 16:1-2

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God—53

Scripture Reading: Hebrews 10:19-39

I Gave My Life for Thee—386

Rejoice, the Lord Is King—116

Message:

Stand Firm in This Evil Day, Part 7
Ephesians 6:10-18

Prayer and Benediction

Closing Hymn: Rise Up O Men of God—339

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On-Call Deacon List:

- February 7: Shumpert
- February 14: Smoak
- February 21: Kyzer

Church Cleaning Schedule:

- February 13: Kyzer (K&R)/Bean
- February 20: Allen/Steele
- February 27: Crapps/McSween

Church Bookstore:

Purchases (cash only) can be made by seeing Annsley or Cristan Smoak, or following the instructions left near the bookstore entrance.

Announcements

There is a meeting after church with Marie Lucas in the fellowship area regarding the starting back of our nursery ministry. This is only for babies who are still using diapers. Here are some important details with more to follow. This is strictly a volunteer ministry, both for the workers and the parents. As parents, if you desire to keep your baby with you during worship, we fully support and encourage you to do so. But, if you desire the use of a nursery, we want to make that available to you. If you meet the qualifications below, that does not mean you are expected to serve in the nursery. This is volunteer only. Below are absolute requirements that must be met to serve in this area:

1. You must be a member of CBC; 2. You must have a background check conducted; 3. You must be a woman or young lady. Men are not allowed to serve in nurser; 4. There will be 2 attendees in the nursery at all times. If you would like to help in the nursery, please see Marie Lucas and sign up on the nursery worker sheet in the foyer.

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Regarding the India orphanage, we have supporters for all the boys in their house, but need support of \$41 per month for about 12 girls. Please pray about this and if the Lord leads, you can sign up on the blue pad on the hallway table. Thank you all for your help.

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We are excited to announce that Justin Peters will be with us in February for a 4-day conference. Dates are confirmed: February 14-17. Begin spreading the word and inviting others to come. This will be a very important conference on discerning truth in these troubled times. Topics will include: Roman Catholicism, Do Not Hinder Them –Children and Conversion, Hearing From Heaven—How God Does and Does Not Speak

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Regarding the India orphanage, we have supporters for all the boys in their house, but need support of \$41 per month for about 12 girls. Please pray about this and if the Lord leads, you can sign up on the blue pad on the hallway table. Thank you all for your help.—A number of supporters for the orphans have expressed interest in writing letters to their orphans that they support. Below is the address to Pastor Prabhu. Prabhu will receive the letters and translate to the boy or girl that the letter was intended. Some have also asked about sending their family photo so the child can see who they are exchanging letters with. All correspondence is welcomed. The only thing we don't know is how many can write a return letter. Hopefully they will be learning that and/or someone will be able to help them with it. Just to let you know, a letter to India will run about \$1.25 each. Please see brother Alton with any questions. The address is as follows:

Pastor Prabhakar Kondepogu, 304 Flat 3rd floor, Sai Sneha Residency, Santhi Nagar 3rd Lane, Chuttugunta, GUNTER 522 004, Andhra Pradesh, INDIA

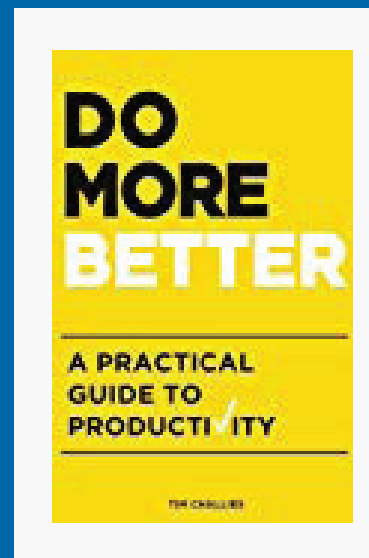
Book of the Week: Do More Better, by Tim Challies

I am no productivity guru. I am a writer, a church leader, a husband, and a father—a Christian with a lot of responsibilities and with new tasks coming at me all the time.

I wrote this short, fast-paced, practical guide to productivity to share what I have learned about getting things done in today's digital world. It will help you learn to structure your life to do the most good to the glory of God.[...]

It really is possible to live a calm and orderly life, sure of your responsibilities and confident in your progress.

Purchase at:
<https://www.challies.com/do-more-better/>



Covenant Baptist Church Events

Greek Class—*On hold*

Biblical Counseling Class—*On hold*

Second Sunday Dinner—*Cancelled for Justin Peters conference.*

Other Events:

Truth: Answers for Women, March 27-28 2020—(Williamstown, KY)

DELAYED UNTIL 2021

More at: <https://answersingenesis.org/outreach/event/answers-for-women-2020/>

2021 National Conference | Ligonier Ministries, March 18-20— (Orlando, FL)

More at: <https://www.ligonier.org/events/2021-national-conference/>



The Deconstruction of the Pro-Life Movement

—by Tom Buck

On January 20, Joe Biden became the 46th President of the United States. Within hours of taking an oath to defend the Constitution, he signed an executive order that will inevitably expand the murder of the most vulnerable in our society – unborn children. That was not a surprise, because Biden did exactly what he told his voters he would do. What is astonishing is that there were evangelicals who openly supported and campaigned for Biden's election with that knowledge. In addition, some evangelicals argued that you can be against abortion and also vote for a pro-abortion candidate. One respected evangelical leader even called it a "legitimate moral choice."

Today, some of these same evangelicals join the March for Life to call for an end of abortion. They will raise their voices against the murder of the unborn, after having used their voices to give credence to vote for a man whose policies will ensure the death of thousands more. I am not saying that they are not sincere about their desire to end abortion. However, I intend to illustrate that their position is absurd, to say the least.

Failures of the Pro-Life Movement

I was born several years before *Roe v. Wade*. Therefore, I have never been consciously aware of a world where it was not legal to take the life of the most vulnerable and innocent in our society. As I approached adulthood, the fight against abortion was in full swing within evangelicalism. The prevailing thought was to establish a political majority as the primary means of repealing the legalization of abortion. Hence, the Moral Majority was born and the religious right became a force in American politics. They united with the Republican Party with the desire that the Pro-Life commitment of their political platform would end abortion.

Within ten short years, the Moral Majority disbanded. Evangelicals faced the reality that the energy and effort placed in a political movement had barely moved the needle to end the slaughter of the unborn. In that decade alone, over 13 million babies were aborted, and in excess of 23 million children have been murdered legally in this nation by 2020. When you finish reading this article, statistics indicate that the life of another baby will have been snuffed out. What is happening in America is nothing short of a modern-day holocaust.

I joined the many evangelicals who were disillusioned with attempting to end abortion by simply uniting with a political party. The church must never think that we can be salt and light in this world by wrapping ourselves in the American flag and making ourselves beholden to any political party. We are ambassadors of Jesus Christ and represent the values of his Kingdom, Therefore, we will always be in conflict at some level with the values of worldly nations.

This does not mean that we should stop fighting to abolish abortion. There is more we should be doing and I repent of not having done more myself. However, it is urgent that we first address a new approach that has infected current evangelicalism. While it claims to be an expansion of the Pro-Life movement it will lead to its functional extinction.

What Does it Mean to be Pro-Life?

With the Republican Party's failure to fulfill its promise to end abortion, a sincere frustration arose. As a whole, they have not given full energy to end abortion when in power. Like many politicians, they often promise to do one thing and end up doing another.

Sadly, this has led to a deeply troubling response from some evangelicals. A new movement is afoot that claims Christians should feel free to cast a vote for whom-ever they wish. Some claim that whether someone votes for a pro-abortion or pro-life candidate is simply a matter of conscience. Essentially, their argument includes the following:

“Republicans have done nothing more to stop abortion than Democrats. Furthermore, there are many injustices happening in our culture that are ‘life’ issues (e.g., police brutality, systemic racism, universal health care, equal pay, et al.). Democrats address these things with greater clarity and action than Republicans. Christians should be concerned about all life issues, not just some life issues. We should care about life from the womb to the tomb. A Christian can have a different political calculus and make a good moral choice to vote for a Democrat as much as a Republican. Therefore, ‘single-issue voting’ regarding abortion must come to an end.”

Now, my goal is not to argue against any proposed societal injustice. In fact, I believe there are real injustices like those listed above that need to be addressed. I welcome an open conversation about how Christians can best address these vital issues. Nevertheless, we cannot build a good foundation upon which to discuss those things without first addressing this movement that creates a moral equivalency between the current injustices on our streets and those occurring behind the walls of abortion mortuaries.

The Absurdity of the Exchange

To say that being a Christian necessitates that you be a Republican is simply anti-Gospel. However, to say that you can make a good moral choice to vote for a political party whose platform tells you it intends to perpetuate and expand the murder of children, is both anti-Gospel and preposterous. Allow me to explain.

First, Republicans may say they intend to do one thing and end up doing another. However, the Democrat Party is straightforward about its intentions and perfectly executes its culture of death each and every time. While one may be a vote for a potential hypocrite, the other is a vote for a guaranteed accomplice to murder. Furthermore, Republicans are not as hypocritical as some make them out to be. They have introduced bills nation-wide that limited the scope of abortion since *Roe v Wade*. One thing that prevented their efforts is Democrats voting against

those bills or working to overturn them.

Second, we are supposed to believe that as Democrats labor to perpetuate abortion, they can be trusted to protect other victims of injustice. Consider the illogic of that thought. You think a political party, committed to snuffing out the life of an innocent person, might improve your neighbor's life? Maybe one could fall for such an absurdity if it were not for the fact that the unborn child in your neighbor's womb is also your neighbor.

Third, how could any issue in our culture be as fundamentally important than protecting the lives of the unborn? What issue is as critical as the fundamental right to be born alive without someone ripping your limbs apart, sucking out your brains, and selling your viable body parts?

Fourth, we would never accept the same arguments made to legitimize voting for pro-abortion politicians to also defend those who voted for pro-slavery politicians. Some argue, “I can vote for a pro-abortion candidate because their policies actually end up reducing the number of abortions.” That is as nonsensical as saying, “I can vote for a pro-slavery candidate because their policies reduce the number of new slaves purchased.” Furthermore, imagine someone who advanced such a position marching in an anti-slavery rally. We all know that the way to address slavery was not to manage it, but to abolish it.

Single-Issue Voting

As Christians, we are called to love our neighbor. There are no neighbors in our present society who are treated more unjust than those killed in their mother's womb. Polls may show there is great concern about issues of injustice equal to abortion, but one reason these other societal issues are viewed as morally equivalent is because there are no victims of abortion available to poll.

Since Christians are ambassadors for Christ's Kingdom in this world, we must not align ourselves fully with any earthly political party. We must vote according to the clear principles and issues found in God's Word. This means that the only thing Christians can ultimately be are “issue voters.” Therefore, if a single issue arises that is fundamental to every other issue, logic necessitates that single issue must become the controlling factor.

Christians must always choose what issues are most important to Christ's Kingdom when casting their vote as sojourners in America. But there is no issue more fundamental in Scripture than life itself. The first judgment God executed was upon Cain for murdering his brother Abel (Gen 4:10-14). Then after the flood, God gave two foundational commands to Noah and his sons. Make Life – “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth” (Gen 9:1). Don't Take Life – “Whoever sheds man's blood, by man his blood shall be shed, for in the image of God he made man” (Gen 9:6). From the beginning, God's judgment was severe against those who shed the blood of another.

This is only magnified by the murder of an innocent child. And considering that more black babies are murdered by abortion, it can be argued that abortion is the greatest and clearest form of systemic racism in America. If we lose sight of this, we will undermine the very foundation of morality that is needed to rightly address all the other issues of injustice that plague our society.

Therefore, the commitment of Democrats to support laws that are nothing short of infanticide, tells you everything you need to know about their qualification to govern. Someone who cannot be trusted with the life of the most vulnerable, cannot be trusted with the life of anyone.

To be clear, this does not demand that a Christian vote Republican. But how can any Christian rightly claim that voting for Democrats is a good moral choice? The moment you give validation to vote for a political party that stands for death as a core value, you have functionally ended any authentic commitment to being Pro-Life.

Rather than giving Christians a “green light” to vote for anyone they wish, we should give politicians a “red light” that says we will stop voting for anyone who does not take an active stand against the murder of the unborn. In addition, if after elected they act in hypocritical ways regarding the issue of life, we will replace them the next chance we get.

All of this is not to say that Christians should return to political strategies and alignments as the hope to bring transformation. Only the gospel can transform hearts and bring the lasting change our culture needs. But we must not exchange a failed political strategy with one that surrenders the moral high ground on the fundamental issue of life itself.

Also Read:

Joe Biden's Transgender Fictions

—by Carl R. Trueman

<https://www.firstthings.com/web-exclusives/2021/01/joe-bidens-transgender-fictions>



Head of U.S. Strategic Command warns of a “very real possibility” of nuclear war with China, Russia

—by Joel Abbott

The nation’s top strategic command chief said earlier this month that the U.S. military needs to prepare for the “very real possibility” of nuclear warfare with China and Russia.

Commander Adm. Charles Richard, the head of U.S. Strategic Command, warned that the increasing aggression of China and Russia warrants a review of the U.S. wartime playbook, which has largely focused on counter-terrorism operations for the last two decades.

“While DoD’s focus has been on counterterrorism, Russia and the People’s Republic of China (PRC) have begun to aggressively challenge international norms and global peace using instruments of power and threats of force in ways not seen since the height of the Cold War — and in some cases, in ways not seen during the Cold War, such as cyberattacks and threats in space,” Richard said. “Not surprisingly, they are even taking advantage of the global pandemic to advance their national agendas. These behaviors are destabilizing, and if left unchecked, increase the risk of great power crisis or conflict.”

Richard specifically mentioned China’s exponential increase in technological

capacity and warned that the U.S. “must pay attention to PRC’s actions more than its stated policies.”

The admiral then warned that the U.S. should be prepared for a “first-strike” scenario in the event that either Russia or China decided to take aggressive action.

“There is a real possibility that a regional crisis with Russia or China could escalate quickly to a conflict involving nuclear weapons, if they perceived a conventional loss would threaten the regime or state,” he said. “Consequently, the U.S. military must shift its principal assumption from ‘nuclear employment is not possible’ to ‘nuclear employment is a very real possibility,’ and act to meet and deter that reality. We cannot approach nuclear deterrence the same way. It must be tailored and evolved for the dynamic environment we face.”

Other News:

Biden Signs Executive Order Allowing the U.S. to Fund Global Abortions

—<https://www.nationalreview.com/corner/biden-signs-executive-order-allowing-the-u-s-to-fund-global-abortions/>

Biden to roll back Trump's pro-life policies, introduce new pro-abortion legislation

— <https://disrn.com//news/biden-to-rollback-trumps-pro-life-policies-introduce-new-pro-abortion-legislation>

New Normal: Chinese Citizens Have to Scan a Tracking App to Re-Enter Their Own Homes

— <https://summit.news/2021/01/14/new-normal-chinese-citizens-have-to-scan-a-tracking-app-to-re-enter-their-own-homes/>

Indian pastor murdered in front of his wife while returning from baptizing believers

— <https://disrn.com//news/returning-from-baptizing-believers-indian-pastor-murdered-in-front-of-his-wife>

Quote of the Week:

When I was young, I was sure of many things; now there are only two things of which I am sure: one is, that I am a miserable sinner; and the other, that Christ is an all-sufficient Saviour. He is well-taught who learns these two lessons.

—John Newton

Biblical Counseling Resources

Strategies for Fighting Depression Well—by Jim Newheiser

<https://biblicalcounseling.com/fighting-depression-well/>

Identity Language in Counseling—by Martha Peace

<https://biblicalcounseling.com/identity-language-in-counseling/>

The Pursuit of Peace—by Sam Stephens

<https://biblicalcounseling.com/the-pursuit-of-peace/>

Defeating Despair—by Tim Pasma

<https://biblicalcounseling.com/defeating-despair/>

Gracious Words Amid Sword Thrusts—by Jim Koerber

<https://biblicalcounseling.com/gracious-words-amid-sword-thrusts/>

You Can Please God—by Kyle Gangel

<https://biblicalcounseling.com/you-can-please-god/>

Crafting Temptation and Repentance Plans to Help Addicts—by Keith Palmer

<https://biblicalcounseling.com/crafting-temptation-and-repentance-plans-to-help-addicts/>

Counseling Self-Injuring Teens

<https://biblicalcounseling.com/resource-library/conference-messages/counseling-self-injuring-teens/>

Enduring Dark Providences

<https://biblicalcounseling.com/resource-library/articles/enduring-dark-providences/>

Covenant Baptist Biblical Counseling Class:

A Biblical Counseling class started February 13th at 7 PM here at the church. If you would be interested in participating, please let the pastor know. We are going to live-stream the class. Just go to the website at <https://covenantbaptistsc.org> and click the live-stream button on home page at 7pm Thursdays.

Biblical counseling class on hold while teacher recovers from surgery.



Covenant Baptist Church

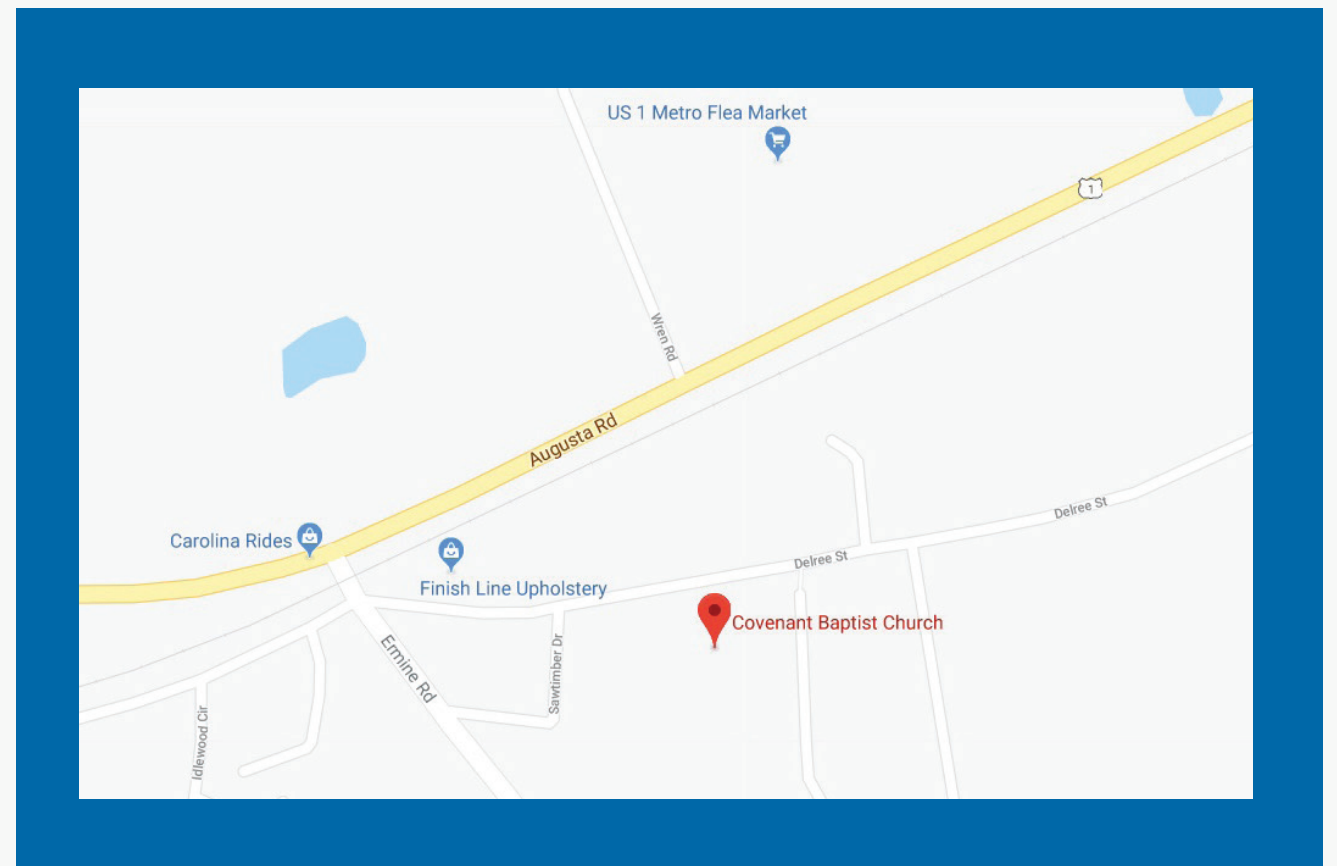
Reformed and Refreshing

3535 Delree Street

West Columbia, SC 29170

<https://covenantbaptistsc.org>

Location:



*If you are interested in joining our church, please speak to one of our elders or deacons.
They will be happy to give you the information you need.*